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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 11, 2007

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Duane Betournay Named DCFS Director

Duane Betournay was named Utah Division of Child and Family Services Director following today's announcement that Richard Anderson is retiring to serve an LDS Church Mission. Betournay's appointment is effective Feb. 15, according to Human Services Director Lisa-Michele Church who said Anderson will work closely with his replacement to assure a smooth transition.

"We must do all we can to maintain positive outcomes for children and families during this time of transition for DCFS," Church said. "Duane Betournay will continue that progress and provide strong leadership for an excellent child welfare system."

Betournay spent many years in DCFS building community partnerships, reaching out to clients and helping DCFS become more responsive to individual parents and children who need help, Church said.

"I am confident in Duane's abilities to balance the difficult demands placed on this agency while always remembering we are here to protect children," she continued. "Duane is especially talented at listening to community leaders."

Anderson, a 33-year Human Services employee, has been DCFS director since 2001. Originally an English major, Anderson learned about social work while serving an LDS mission on the Navajo Reservation. He quickly earned a social work degree and began his career as a rural caseworker in Tooele.

Betournay has been a state employee for 28 years, most recently as a deputy director in DCFS and previously as their Constituent Services Director.

"Children are safer than ever before in our system and our workers are better trained and really understand their jobs," he said. "We're already working on citizen and community involvement in DCFS and we need to continue building on that."

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